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## Update on the epidemiology of carbapenemases in Latin America and the Caribbean

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** Carbapenemases are  $\beta$ -lactamases able to hydrolyze a wide range of  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics, including carbapenems. Carbapenemase production in *Enterobacterales*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Acinetobacter* spp., with and without the co-expression of other  $\beta$ -lactamases is a serious public health threat. Carbapenemases belong to three main classes according to the Ambler classification: class A, class B, and class D.

**Areas covered:** Carbapenemase-bearing pathogens are endemic in Latin America. In this review, we update the status of carbapenemases in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Expert opinion:** Understanding the current epidemiology of carbapenemases in Latin America and the Caribbean is of critical importance to improve infection control policies limiting the dissemination of multi-drug-resistant pathogens and in implementing appropriate antimicrobial therapy.

**Keywords:** *Acinetobacter baumannii*; *Klebsiella pneumoniae*; *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*; Latin America; carbapenem resistance; carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CRE); carbapenemases; carbapenems.

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